

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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SENATOR WILL: Sound good to you?

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yes. (Laughter.)

CLERK: Number 4, Senator, is found on page 154 of the Journal.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. And, Senator Withem, I apologize for giving a long speech about number three when we're moving to number four. But proposed rule change number four was brought to the Rules Committee and I believe supported unanimously by the committee. It was brought by Senator Withem. And the thrust behind this, and I'll turn it over to Senator Withem in a very short period, is that the President, whoever is presiding over the Legislature, may declare a motion to place the house under call out of order if all the absentees were to vote on one side of the question and their combined vote would not change the result of the vote. I think the thrust of this is that sometimes an individual who is frustrated, that is attempting to pursue a course that is clearly not going to be within the desire of the Legislature itself, will repeatedly place the house under call, and that is typically something that is given as a matter of course, as a courtesy to a member who desires to do so. But in some cases it becomes what, I guess, could be expressed as a dilatory tactic, and I think that's the intent behind this. Senator Withem, you can take it from there.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, thank you, Senator Will. I did introduce this rule change to the Rules Committee. Did way through last session, probably in a moment of some frustration, and at the very least I hope we can begin to have some discussion here on the floor about this practice of putting the call under house, or, if you'd rather, the house under call. Just wanted to see if Senator Chambers was listening there to.... He was, he was, in that case. Putting the house under call. As Senator Will said, this practice of putting the house under call has been...almost become routine. Any member says I'd like a call of the house and the body almost automatically gives it. There are times when I think it is inappropriate. And I'm really not even referring to those times when a given member may be wishing